

THE UNION LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA



1862-1931

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UNION LEAGUE OF

PHILADELPHIA.

HANDEOOK OF THE UNION LEAGUE

OF PHILADELPHIA FROM 1862 ...

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HANDBOOK OF
THE UNION LEAGUE
OF PHILADELPHIA

FROM 1862
THE YEAR OF ITS ORGANIZATION
TO 1931



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THE UNION LEAGUE
OF PHILADELPHIA

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BY authority of the Board of Directors, a committee, consisting of Messrs. Frank M. Hardt, Chairman, Herman L. Collins, William P. Beeber, and Irving L. Wilson, was appointed to prepare and publish a condensed historical handbook of The Union League, that the information contained in previous publications might be brought up to date. Accordingly this volume has been prepared and published for the use and ownership of its members, and particularly is it commended to the attention of the newer members of The Union League and those from time to time elected to its membership.

Other members of the committee acknowledge, with a deep sense of gratitude, the time and effort unstintingly given the production of the historical story by Herman L. Collins.



★ PRESIDENTS ★

- *WILLIAM M. MEREDITH . . . 1863, '64
- *J. GILLINGHAM FELL . . . 1865, '66, '67, '68
- *HORACE BINNEY, JR. . . . 1869 TO FEB. 3, '70
- *MORTON MCMICHAEL . . . FEB. 19, 1870, '71, '72, '73, '74
- *JOHN P. VERREE 1875, '76
- *CHARLES E. SMITH 1877, '78
- *GEORGE H. BOKER 1879, '80, '81, '82, '83, '84
- *EDWIN N. BENSON 1885, '86, '87, '88
- *WILLIAM C. HOUSTON 1889, '90
- *EDWIN H. FITLER 1891, '92
- *JOHN RUSSELL YOUNG 1893, '94
- *SILAS W. PETTIT 1895, '96
- *C. STUART PATTERSON 1897, '98
- *JOSEPH G. DARLINGTON 1899, 1900, '01, '02
- EDWARD T. STOTESBURY 1903, '04, '05, '22, '23
- EDWIN S. STUART 1906, '19, '20, '21
- *DIMNER BEEBER 1907, '08
- *JAMES F. HOPE 1909, '10, '11
- *WILLIAM T. TILDEN 1912, '13, '14
- JOHN GRIBBEL 1915, '16, '17
- *WILLIAM C. SPROUL 1918, '26, '27
- *E. PUSEY PASSMORE 1924, '25
- WILLIAM G. PRICE, JR. . . . 1928, '29
- *MELVILLE G. BAKER DEC. 10, 1929, TO MAY 13, 1930
- GEORGE STUART PATTERSON MAY 20, 1930, '31
- E. LAWRENCE FELL. . . . 1932

* Deceased.

★ VICE-PRESIDENTS ★

* WILLIAM H. ASHHURST . . .	1863, '64, '65, '66, '67, '68
* HORACE BINNEY, JR. . .	1863, '64, '65, '66, '67, '68
* JOHN B. MYERS . . .	1863, '64
* ADOLPH E. BORIE . . .	1863, '64, '65, '66, '67, '68, '69, '70, '71, '72, '73, '74, '75, '76, '77, '79 TO FEB. 5, '80
* MORTON McMICHAEL . . .	1865, '66, '67, '68, '69, '70
* J. GILLINGHAM FELL . . .	1869, '70, '71, '72, '73, '74, '75, '76, '77, '78
* DANIEL SMITH, JR. . .	1869
* CHARLES GIBBONS . . .	1870, '71, '72, '73, '74
* WILLIAM SELLERS . . .	FEB. 19, 1870, '71, '72, '73, '74
* EDWARD C. KNIGHT . . .	1875, '85, '86, '87, '88
* CHARLES E. SMITH . . .	1875, '76
* JAMES V. WATSON . . .	1876, '77, '78
* JOHN P. VERREE . . .	1877
* EDWIN R. COPE . . .	1878
* E. H. BARTOL . . .	1878
* EDWIN N. BENSON . . .	1879, '80, '81, '82, '83, '84
* J. FRAILEY SMITH . . .	1879 TO JUNE 26, '80
* WILLIAM C. HOUSTON . . .	1879, '80, '81, '82, '83, '84, '85, '86, '87, '88
* SAMUEL C. PERKINS . . .	FEB. 10, 1880, '81, '82, '83, '91, '92
* EDWIN H. FITLER . . .	JULY 13, 1880, '81, '82, '83, '84, '85, '86, '87, '88, '89, '90
* THOMAS DOLAN . . .	1884, '85, '86, '87, '88, '89, '90
* SAMUEL B. HUEY . . .	1889, '90, '92
* THEODORE E. WIEDERSHEIM .	1889, '90, '91

* Deceased.

★ VICE-PRESIDENTS ★

*SILAS W. PETTIT	1891, '92, '93, '94
*JOSEPH B. TOWNSEND . . .	1891
*JOHN H. MICHENER	1892
*ELISHA A. HANCOCK	1893
*JAMES DOBSON	1893, '94
*WILLIAM H. HURLEY	1893, '94
*H. EARNEST GOODMAN, M.D. .	1894, '95 TO FEB. 3, '96
*JOSEPH G. DARLINGTON . . .	1895, '96, '97, '98
*FAYETTE R. PLUMB	1895, '96
*GEORGE CAMPBELL	1895, '96, '97
*R. DALE BENSON	MAR. 10, 1896, '97, '98
*JOSEPH S. NEFF, M.D.	1897, '98, 1907
*HARRY F. WEST	1898, '99, 1900, '01
*JAMES BUTTERWORTH	1899
LINCOLN K. PASSMORE	1899
*CHARLES E. PUGH	1899, 1900, '01
*CHARLES S. FORSYTH	1900, '01
*EDWARD I. SMITH	1900
*ALFRED F. MOORE	1901
*WILLIAM B. VAN LENNEP, M.D.	1902, '03, '04
*JAMES F. HOPE	1902, '03, '04
EDWARD T. STOTESBURY	1902
WILLIAM M. COATES	1902, '03, '04, '05
*CHARLES K. BARNES	1903
EDWIN S. STUART	1904, '05
*WILLIAM T. TILDEN	1905, '06, '08, '09, '10, '11
*DIMNER BEEBER	1905, '06
*JOHN SAILER	1906, '07, '08
*WILLIAM W. PORTER	1906, '07, '09, '10
CHARLES D. BARNEY	1907, '08, '09
MORRIS L. CLOTHIER	1908, '09, '10, '11
WILLIAM HENRY BROOKS	1910, '11
*THOMAS J. JEFFRIES	1911, '12, '13, '14
*HOWARD B. FRENCH	1912

* Deceased.

★ VICE-PRESIDENTS ★

*E. ELDRIDGE PENNOCK . . .	1912
*WILLIAM C. SPROUL . . .	1912, '13, '14, '16, '17
*JOSEPH B. McCALL . . .	1913
GEORGE B. EVANS . . .	1913, '14, '15, '16
JOHN GRIBBEL . . .	1914
*HARRISON TOWNSEND . . .	1915
MIERS BUSCH . . .	1915, '16, '17, '18, '19, '20, '26
*CHARLEMAGNE TOWER . . .	1915, '16, '17
*WILLIAM T. ELLIOTT . . .	1917
*ALEXANDER W. WISTER, JR. . .	1918
*CHARLES R. MILLER . . .	1918, '19, '20, '21, '22
CHARLES A. PORTER, JR. . .	1918
CHARLES M. SCHWAB . . .	1919
*E. PUSEY PASSMORE . . .	1919, '20, '21, '22, '23
*WILLIAM R. LYMAN . . .	1920, '21, '22, '23, '24, '25
*GEORGE A. WALKER . . .	1921, '22, '23
*CHARLES J. WEBB . . .	1923
*J. WARNER HUTCHINS . . .	1924 TO FEB. 4, '25
WILLIAM G. PRICE, JR. . .	1924, '26, '27
*JOHN T. RILEY . . .	1924 TO FEB. 10, '25
*BAYARD HENRY . . .	1925, '26
*MELVILLE G. BAKER . . .	1925, '26, '27
*CHARLES E. ROBERTS . . .	1927, '28
W. KIRKLAND DWIER . . .	1927, '28
GEORGE STUART PATTERSON . . .	1928
CHARLES P. VAUGHAN . . .	1928
LOUIS J. KOLB . . .	1929
FRANK A. BEDFORD . . .	1929
LEWIS H. VAN DUSEN . . .	1930, '31, '32
FRANK M. HARDT . . .	1930, '31, '32
CHARLES H. EWING . . .	1930, '31
ERNEST T. TRIGG . . .	1931
OTTO ROBERT HEILIGMAN . . .	1932
FRANK H. CAVEN . . .	1932

* Deceased.

★ SECRETARIES ★

*GEORGE H. BOKER . . .	1863, '64, '65, '66, '67, '68, '69, '70, '71
*STEPHEN A. CALDWELL . .	1872, '73, '74
*WILLIAM CAMAC, M.D. . .	1875
*SILAS W. PETTIT . . .	1876, '77, '78, '89, '90
*WILLIAM E. LITTLETON . .	1879 TO SEPT. 22, '80
*SAMUEL B. HUEY . . .	SEPT. 22, 1880, '81, '82, '83, '84, '85, '86, '87, '88
*WILLIAM POTTER . . .	1891 TO NOV. 22, '92
*JOSEPH G. DARLINGTON . .	NOV. 22, 1892, '93
*JOSEPH S. NEFF, M.D. . .	1894, '95
*C. STUART PATTERSON . .	1896
*CHARLEMAGNE TOWER . .	DEC. 15, 1896, TO APR. 13, '97
*J. LEVERING JONES . . .	APR. 13, 1897, '98, '99
*DIMNER BEEBER . . .	1900, '01, '02, '03
*WILLIAM H. LAMBERT . .	1904, '05, '06, '07
*GEORGE P. MORGAN . . .	1908, '09, '10 TO OCT. 10, '11
*JOHN W. HAMER . . .	OCT. 10, 1911, '12, '13, '14, '15, '16, '17, '18, '19, '20, '21, '22, '23, '24, TO SEPT. 1, '25
HAROLD B. BEITLER . . .	SEPT. 8, 1925, '26, '27, '28, '29 TO JAN. 15, '30
THOMAS SHALLCROSS, JR. .	JAN. 15, 1930, '31, '32

* Deceased.

★ TREASURERS ★

*JAMES L. CLAGHORN . . .	1863 TO OCT. 1, '65, '68 TO AUG. 25, '84
*EDWARD S. CLARKE . . .	OCT. 1, 1865, '66, '67
*THOMAS COCHRAN . . .	AUG. 27, 1884, '85, '86, '87, '88, '89, '90
WINTHROP SMITH . . .	1891
*HARRY F. WEST . . .	1892, '93, '94, '95, '96, '97
*EDWARD I. SMITH . . .	1898, '99
EDWARD T. STOTESBURY . .	1900, '01
*M. RIEBENACK . . .	1902, '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, '08, '09 TO MAY 10, '10
*JAMES E. MITCHELL . . .	MAY 10, 1910, '11, '12, '13, '14, '15, '16, '17, '18, '19, '20, '21, '22, '23, '24 TO APR. 19, '25
E. LAWRENCE FELL . . .	MAY 12, 1925, '26, '27, '28, '29, '30, '31
JAY GATES.	1932
	* Deceased.

THE UNION LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA

PRESIDENT LINCOLN, at a reception tendered him by The Union League June 17, 1864, said: "I am happy at the opportunity of visiting The Union League of Philadelphia, the first, I believe, of the Union Leagues—an organization free from political prejudices and prompted in its formation by motives of the highest patriotism. I have many times heard of its doing great good and no one has charged it with doing any wrong."

Many years afterward the venerable Senator Simon Cameron, who had been Lincoln's first Secretary of War, made this emphatic statement:

"I believe this Union League, under God, did more than any civil organization in America to put down the Rebellion."

The idea of a Union League came from the brains of a few highly patriotic men in November, 1862. It was formally organized a few months afterward.

That was one of the gloomiest periods in American history. The War of Secession had been draining human blood and treasure for a year and a half.

The Southern States, which had voted to secede from the Union, were putting forth valiant efforts to create an independent nation. Lincoln had, during the eighteen months beginning with the firing upon Fort Sumter,

called into the Union armies hundreds of thousands of troops. Congress had voted hundreds of millions of dollars to carry on the war.

Despite these vast military efforts the Confederacy was not only unsubdued, but boastful, arrogant, and confident.

The South had won many battles. The North seemed no nearer a complete triumph than it had been after the disheartening episode at Bull Run, which Lord Palmerston, Premier of England, sneeringly christened the "battle of Yankee's Run."

Lincoln had been elected President in 1860 by a million fewer votes than had been cast for his three Democratic opponents. He was in that sense a minority President.

W Pennsylvania had long been a Democratic State. That party enrolled in Philadelphia and throughout the Commonwealth leaders in industry, finance and trade. Its members were influential if not predominant in the higher social circles in this city, which proved in the end to be one of the definite reasons for founding The Union League.

For a century and more the trade ties which bound Philadelphia to the Southern States had been growing stronger. This was the leading manufacturing city in the country.

There were prominent families and business firms which had become rich largely through their Southern commercial relations. These people were of staunch character and high social position. Many of them had long been looked upon as civic leaders.

And in 1862 there were in Philadelphia hundreds of business men who regarded President Lincoln as a national

menace. They openly declared the war to coerce the South a dismal failure.

They pointed to lost battles and to the bloody fields of Shiloh and Antietam as evidence that the South could never be conquered.

And when McClellan, a native Philadelphian, had led his great army to within sound of Richmond's church bells, only to start a great retreat, the gloom in Philadelphia was deeper than it had been in the eighty-five years since an English army during the Revolution marched down Chestnut Street.

Fully half the population was anti-Lincoln. Nearly as large a proportion loudly denounced the war, which was taxing the people a terrific cost in human life and money.

Abolitionists were railing at the President because he had failed as yet to declare the slaves free. They loudly demanded that the negroes be emancipated or that the Northern States should "let the erring sisters" secede without further protest or restraint.

Lincoln was abused almost as vehemently by some of the Abolitionists as he was by Northern Copperheads and the Confederates.

Nearly all Europe was on the verge of recognizing the Confederacy as an independent nation. Even Gladstone solemnly asserted that it was such.

The Governments and ruling classes of France, England, Germany, Spain and Austria were extremely hostile to the North. They were eager to see the great American Republic divided, weakened and held up in history as a colossal failure.

The raw staple produced in the United States which England most needed was cotton, and all of it was grown in the South.

Blockade by the Union Navy of Southern ports was hotly resented all over Europe as a menace to its own industries and well-being.

Napoleon the Third was watching Mexico with hungry and avaricious eyes. Destruction of the American Union would doubtless enable him to make an easy conquest south of the Rio Grande.

Europe had loaned to Jefferson Davis many million dollars with which to carry on his rebellion. In every possible way, without an actual breach of neutrality, England and France aided the South.

London's greatest newspaper was bitter in its comments on Lincoln's policies and Northern hopes. It ridiculed the Federal endeavor to put down secession.

And the spiteful *Punch* cartooned the American President as a cheap buffoon and even likened him to a baboon.

Philadelphia textile industries were also badly crippled by their inability to procure raw cotton.

Taxes rose to the highest point known in the United States up to that time. Cost of living mounted also to then unheard-of heights.

The Federal treasury was not only empty, but gold was at a premium and the Government was already finding serious difficulty in floating bond issues.

Local newspapers edited and owned by blatant Copperheads warned the people that investing in a Federal bond was buying a pig in a poke.

Disasters in the field, hospitals filled with wounded, necessity for drafting soldiers, no freedom yet for slaves, hostility abroad, open defiance of Union authority in many Northern localities, and fashionable in smart society to sneer at Northern Generals and the President—such was the fabric of gloom which profoundly enveloped and deeply oppressed America's second greatest city during the early days of secession.

Justice Woodward, of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, had openly made the dramatic statement: "If the Union is to be divided, I want the line of separation to run north of Pennsylvania."

At a large public meeting held in the Board of Trade, Ellis Lewis presented a resolution demanding the enforcement of the Fugitive Slave law and otherwise conciliating the South.

Benjamin Harris Brewster, one of the foremost lawyers of the city, and afterward Attorney General of the United States, spoke in doubtful manner about the side for which Pennsylvania should fight.

The *Palmetto Flag*, a newspaper with avowed Southern sympathies, was started in Philadelphia and preached its destructive theories with much gusto.

At the Board of Trade meeting one resolution adopted suggested that Pennsylvania's true attitude might be to go with neither the North nor the South, but to remain an independent Commonwealth.

Charles J. Ingersoll, a noted Philadelphia lawyer, issued a pamphlet of such distinctly pro-Southern tone that it drew from Judge Russell Thayer a spirited rejoinder, in

which he said: "While you proclaim yourself the friend of the Union, your talents are chiefly devoted to an elaborate apology for the traitors who vainly attempt to destroy it."

The venerable George M. Dallas, ex-Vice-President of the United States, while an old-time Democrat, delivered a forceful speech in defense of the war to save the Union.

At the end of the first year of the war Pennsylvania had sent to the front a greater number of troops than any other State.

Then when President Lincoln called for another 300,000 volunteers, patriotic citizens of Philadelphia in a few days raised \$700,000 with which to provide bounties for the volunteers.

Colonel John W. Forney's *Press* nevertheless declared in November, 1862, that "all the splendor of brilliant society and the fascination of social intercourse are combined to accomplish the woful purpose" of destroying the Union.

Horatio Seymour had been elected Governor of New York by a triumphant Democratic party. That greatly heartened the Democrats of Pennsylvania, who immediately laid plans for a campaign in this State which it was hoped would defeat the Republican war party and thus prove a repudiation of the Federal Administration.

Thus the political horizon was almost as black as the outlook for Northern military success. The times called for a new kind of action. As in so many grave crises in history, the right men sprang forward to meet the situation.

Seventy years afterward it may appear, through the misty vista of history, that in 1862 a solid North was

arrayed against a solid South. Such was far from the true condition.

Social ties, family relationships, financial connections, trade affiliations, political prejudices and honest differences of opinion on such pressing issues as slavery and States' rights were responsible for a powerful and active contingent throughout the North which vehemently opposed the war and combatted every move to make it successful.

Nowhere else were heard more heated arguments against the Federal Administration policies than developed at Philadelphia's famous Wistar Parties. These parties had then been a regular feature of Philadelphia social life for more than forty years since the celebrated Dr. Caspar Wistar's death.

Named in honor of that truly great scientist, and formed to perpetuate a species of intellectual treat, the Wistar Parties were at once representative of Philadelphia's best both in the field of science and learning and in the purely social domain.

So fiercely, however, did opposition to the war for the Union develop at the Wistar Parties that they were suspended for the first time in more than four decades.

That led directly to the formation of a new organization called the Union Club, whose membership was restricted exclusively to those men who were patriotically upholding the Union cause.

It was a momentous decision. The sequel was quick and also more far-reaching than that which ever in the world attended what appeared to be only the formation of a purely social club.

It was the acorn from which sprang The Union League of Philadelphia, which in turn was the mother of all the scores of lesser Union Leagues throughout the country.

These became the focal points for aggressive war work in every possible direction. Raising and arming of regiments, equipment of hospitals, printing and dissemination of spirited patriotic literature and bonuses for volunteers were only a part of the achievements of The Union League of Philadelphia.

Perhaps the greatest thing it accomplished, or could accomplish, was to make patriotism fashionable and disunion odious.

\\ The Union League was not intended to be a social organization, not a fashionable rendezvous for the idle, not a debating society, but a League of high-minded and courageous men to save the American Union from destruction. \\ At the outset it was non-partisan. It was, as Lincoln said, not political. The purpose of The Union League was to do everything humanly possible to uphold President Lincoln, fight the Civil War to a successful conclusion, defeat the idea that any State might secede, and to preserve the American Republic.

Judge J. I. C. Hare was the first to suggest such an organization. He met one day in November, 1862, George H. Boker in Seventh Street near Chestnut.

Mr. Boker wrote in his recollections that Judge Hare then expressed the thought that Philadelphians who were for the Union should have no social relations, or even business relations, with those who openly were sympathetic with the Confederate cause.

George H. Boker was a man of great distinction. Son of a prominent banker, he himself was a man of wealth, a scholar and poet, and gifted with all those graces which made him personally popular in the highest and most influential circles of Philadelphia.

Judge Hare's suggestion for a Union Club sent his friend Boker at once to Morton McMichael, proprietor of the *North American* newspaper.

While those two were discussing the matter, Benjamin Gerhard came into Mr. McMichael's office. When told of what Judge Hare had proposed, Gerhard was enthusiastic.

The names of a score or more of other strong Union men were written down and Gerhard said he would invite them to meet at his home, 226 South Fourth Street.

And there was held on November 15, 1862, the first meeting, which resulted in the organization of the Union Club.

It was planned as essentially a social body, on the lines of the Wistar Party, but its membership was restricted to those whose anti-slavery and anti-Confederacy sentiments were thoroughly well known.

The names of those who comprised the Union Club should be forever preserved, since their action led a few weeks later to the creation of The Union League, with all its far-flung consequences.

Nearly but not quite all of the following gentlemen whose patriotic zeal led them to organize the Union Club were among the first one hundred who enrolled as members of the greater Union League:

★ THE UNION LEAGUE ★

MORTON McMICHAEL	JOHN B. MYERS
CHARLES GIBBONS	WILLIAM M. TILGHMAN
BENJAMIN GERHARD	A. J. ANTELO
GEORGE H. BOKER	C. H. CLARK
A. E. BORIE	FERDINAND J. DREER
JOHN M. READ	JAMES L. CLAGHORN
SINGLETON A. MERCER	EDWIN M. LEWIS
J. I. C. HARE	HENRY M. WATTS
E. SPENCER MILLER	THOMAS A. BIDDLE
HORACE BINNEY, JR.	DANIEL SMITH, JR.
STEPHEN COLWELL	THEODORE FROTHINGHAM
JAMES W. PAUL	CHARLES J. PETERSON
JOHN ASHHURST	GEORGE WHITNEY
HENRY C. CAREY	JOSEPH HARRISON, JR.
WILLIAM HENRY RAWLE	WILLIAM D. LEWIS
SAMUEL J. REEVES	JOSHUA B. LIPPINCOTT
ALFRED D. JESSUP	JOHN H. TOWNE
ABRAHAM J. LEWIS	WARD B. HAZLETINE
CHARLES L. BORIE	S. M. FELTON
FREDERICK FRALEY	S. V. MERRICK
J. G. FELL	GEN. GEORGE CADWALADER
ALEXANDER BROWN	WILLIAM SELLERS
WILLIAM H. ASHHURST	JOSEPH B. TOWNSEND
DR. W. C. SWANN	B. H. MOORE
DANIEL DOUGHERTY	JAMES MILLIKEN
GEORGE H. TROTT	ABRAHAM BARKER
FAIRMAN ROGERS	JOHN P. VERREE
ROBERT M. CABEEN	DR. JOHN F. MEIGS
JOHN RUSSELL YOUNG	

These gentlemen were truly representative of Philadelphia's best culture, brains and business. Their combined interests covered a wide field.

Dougherty, Fell, Antelo and Boker were then Democrats, and it was the fate of the silver-tongued orator Dougherty in later years to place in nomination for President of the United States Grover Cleveland.

But these and other Democrats who in the early days joined The Union League were first of all patriots who were determined to do their utmost to preserve the American Union.

It required only a few gatherings of the Union Club to demonstrate to that band of zealous men that its aims did not meet all the high requirements of those perilous times.

The Union Club had no home, but, like the Wistar Party, met at the residences of its members. On the night of December 27, 1862, the club members gathered at the home of Dr. John F. Meigs, 1208 Walnut Street.

And there and then was born The Union League of Philadelphia. Stephen Colwell presided at that meeting, and the energetic and very able lawyer, Charles Gibbons, was secretary.

A few of the most aggressive spirits had already discussed plans for the new enterprise, and Mr. Gibbons was cocked and primed.

He arose and read the fundamental articles for the new and more potential organization.

It was Mr. Gibbons who there originated the name The Union League of Philadelphia.

There was a lively debate over taking the name Union League, but Gibbons was ready for every attack.

This was intended, he said, to be something far more important than a club which spent pleasant evenings discussing oysters, science and literature. It was to be in the highest sense a League to help save the Union of American States, so that there could be no other name so descriptive of its purposes as The Union League.

The organization of The Union League was an epochal event, not only for Philadelphia but for the entire nation.

It was the first society of any kind in the North which erected an impassable barrier to entrance for all whose sympathies were not wholly in accord with the Lincoln administration in prosecution of the war to put down rebellion and preserve a united country.

The fact that The Union League raised such a barrier against quasi as well as outspoken Copperheads, immediately brought against it loud denunciations. It was vehemently asserted by one newspaper that Democratic organizations would be formed for purposes exactly opposed to those of the new Union League.

Thus The Union League at the very outset drew a line which was soon adopted in scores of other cities. George H. Boker sounded the keynote when he declared this to be the aim of The Union League:

"It is our purpose to take treason by the throat."

Threats were published in Democratic newspapers that the homes of The Union League members would be attacked by mobs and torn to the ground. These were not carried out, but so ominous were the opposition thunder-

ings that the night The Union League moved into its first home a large supply of hickory ax handles were brought in so that the members might defend themselves from assault. The ax handles were never employed for that purpose, yet they were a symbol of the determination of those behind the new institution.

With Stephen Colwell presiding and Charles Gibbons acting as secretary at that meeting, December 27, 1862, in the home of Dr. Meigs, 1208 Walnut Street, the following "Articles of Association of The Union League" were unanimously adopted:

The undersigned agree to associate under the name of The Union League of Philadelphia and to adopt the following fundamental Articles of Association, to wit:

I. The condition of membership shall be unqualified loyalty to the Government of the United States and unwavering support of its efforts for the suppression of the Rebellion.

II. The primary object of the Association shall be to discountenance and rebuke by moral and social influences all disloyalty to the Federal Government, and to that end the Association will use every proper means in public and private.

III. To meet necessary expenditures for house rent, furniture, subscriptions to newspapers and periodicals and such other things as may be necessary for the use of the League, each Associator shall pay an entrance fee of twenty-five dollars and an annual tax of the same amount.

IV. No cards, billiards or other games, except chess, shall be allowed in the League house and no spirituous liquor shall be kept or sold therein.

Other articles dealt with the purely routine matters of organization and the formation of committees.

When these articles were read by Secretary Gibbons there was at once a heated discussion over Article II. Several members threatened to withdraw if that Article were to imply a cessation of business and professional intercourse with men who were known to be Southern sympathizers.

Daniel Dougherty said he was a Democrat—he had opposed Lincoln for President and would also oppose his re-election as President. He declared he would support Lincoln to the utmost in prosecution of the war to save the Union, but would not support him in anything else.

Article II was at first drawn a bit stronger than it appeared when adopted, and as it stands today it has in it nothing of the boycott element which aroused such bitter opposition.

Stephen Colwell was the first to sign his name to the Articles of Association and he may thus be looked upon as the original member of The Union League.

While The Union League thus came into being as a direct outgrowth of the Union Club, formed some seven weeks earlier, the latter did not cease to exist. It remained a purely social affair, met once a week in various homes and so continued until 1865, when it ceased to function except as an annual dining organization.

Forty years after it was organized only eight of the Union Club founders survived. The oldest of them was the venerable Frederick Fraley, who was born in 1804. The last survivor of the Union Club was Abraham Barker.

The first general meeting of The Union League was held January 22, 1863. On that occasion permanent officers were chosen as follows:

President—William Morris Meredith.

Vice-Presidents—W. H. Ashhurst, Horace Binney, Jr., John B. Myers and Adolph E. Borie.

Directors—Morton McMichael, J. I. C. Hare, Charles Gibbons, James L. Claghorn, Benjamin Gerhard, Joseph B. Townsend, George H. Boker, George Whitney and John B. Kenney.

In the choice for its first president The Union League was magnificent. Meredith was a commanding figure in Philadelphia and a national character.

He was one of America's ablest lawyers and he had been Secretary of the Treasury more than a dozen years before under President Taylor. The formidable Meredith was later to become Attorney General of Pennsylvania and then president of the convention in 1873 which framed the present State Constitution for Pennsylvania.

The officers were all men of recognized ability and high standing in the community. When their names along with those of the first hundred members were published in Philadelphia, the effect was much more than a mild sensation.

It was seen at once that The Union League meant business. The very fact that such a group of men, headed by the brilliant and able Meredith, came out boldly for a war

to the finish made the Union cause infinitely more fashionable than it had been. What was fully as desirable, it made the cause of the Copperhead less fashionable.

The Union League of Philadelphia was the first organized civil body which, in the words of the immortal Boker, "took treason by the throat."

For the first few weeks of its existence The Union League had no home. Then two of its most aggressive members, Mr. Claghorn and Mr. Ashhurst, decided to lease the residence of Hartmann Kuhn, 1118 Chestnut Street. That house later became the home of Matthias Baldwin, the creator of the great locomotive works which bear his name and as such was known to this generation.

Then it was torn down to make way for Keith's theater. But it was considered originally a very satisfactory house for the newly organized Union League.

It was formally opened on February 23, 1863. The fact that it was to be entered only by those whose loyalty was beyond question aroused violent denunciations from Southern adherents. Opposition newspapers hurled vitriolic threats and promised various kinds of reprisals.

The effect produced by the organization of The Union League, embracing as it did such a formidable number of distinguished Philadelphians, was far beyond the expectations of its founders.

A similar society called the Union League Club was organized in New York, and it adopted virtually the same articles of faith.

Down from Boston came a request to The Union League of Philadelphia for a copy of its charter and by-laws, and a

Union League was organized there under the leadership of the celebrated Senator Edward Everett.

Chicago followed, and during the year The Union League of Philadelphia had actually mothered similar, although smaller, replicas of itself in every Northern State.

The results were far-reaching and decidedly helpful to President Lincoln.

The Union League of Philadelphia once launched took up every phase of war work with enormous zeal. It was the center for the publication or distribution of millions of copies of booklets and articles of a patriotic nature.

Speeches, State papers, songs and general literature which were calculated to inspire confidence in Lincoln and to encourage enlistments of soldiers and contributions of money, were sent out by The Union League in wagonloads.

This set the fashion for similar action by all the other Union Leagues. Senator Cameron had this tremendous work in mind when he said, fifteen years after the war ended, that The Union League of Philadelphia had done more than any other civil organization to put down the Rebellion.

The Union League made it a practice to encourage the Secretary of War and the leading generals. It awarded medals and made many generals honorary members.

Acknowledging the receipt of The Union League's silver medal, Edwin M. Stanton, the powerful Secretary of War, wrote to Mr. Boker:

"In this great contest of a free Republican Government against slave-holding treason and rebellion, your League has borne a very distinguished and efficient part."

During the war period The Union League had published and circulated in broadside fashion 145 different pamphlets and distributed by tens of thousands reprints of forty-five different posters and lithographs.

These efforts proved highly educational. They aided immensely in the efforts to solidify sentiment of the whole North to put forth every possible effort required to win for this "Government of the people, by the people, for the people" a final victory.

It was a grand example of "Keeping the home fires burning." But The Union League did not stop with propaganda.

It performed the very remarkable feat of organizing and equipping ten complete regiments for the field.

To those who have not fully examined the daily contemporary records, it is impossible to conceive the hatreds engendered by the organization of The Union League.

One fanatic met Secretary Boker in front of the League's house and, leveling a pistol at his head, exclaimed: "I've got you now!"

The suave poet and man of fashion was brave as he was handsome, and in very energetic language he defied the coward to fire.

A friend of Boker then leaped forward and knocked the weapon from the hands of the would-be assassin, but Philadelphia there narrowly escaped a black crime.

One morning pedestrians in the central portion of the city were startled to see halters hanging from lamp-posts. The halters in sinister fashion had attached to them the names of some of the leading spirits in the new Union

League. The implication was obvious. Threats, newspaper attacks, personal assaults, sneers, epithets such as "negro-lovers" and "black legs," were all in vain.

Because The Union League had erected its barrier against dis-unionists, there were many more than thinly veiled threats to boycott its members not only socially but in commercial and business ways as well.

Nothing, however, could move President William M. Meredith and his fellow members once they got under way.

One bright adherent of the Confederacy declared in print that no body of men who met in an elegant house "behind lace curtains" could produce a revolution. Yet they did that very thing, because The Union League, despite its alleged aristocratic airs, did produce a profound revolution in American thought.

Opponents of the war staged a great public meeting in Independence Square, where speakers denounced the Federal Government for arresting Congressman Valandigham, arch-Copperhead of the North.

Such episodes invariably drew from The Union League counter-attacks and in that way tended greatly to nullify the work of Northern secessionists.

In its babyhood days The Union League sought in all honorable ways to foster a spirit of reverence for the National Government. The likeness of a huge American eagle adorned the Chestnut Street front of the League's home. Inside were battle-flags fresh from bloody fields.

Then Ferdinand J. Dreer had a fine inspiration. He, assisted by a few others, purchased from the famous artist, Thomas Sully, his heroic painting of Washington.

Sully had loaned it to The Union League and was glad to sell it for \$750.

This portrait had been painted for the National Government during the administration of President Polk. The price was to be \$2,200.

At the last moment Congress adjourned without making the necessary appropriation to pay for the painting, which was to be placed in the Capitol at Washington.

It is today a precious possession of The Union League and occupies a conspicuous place at the head of the grand stairway at the Broad Street end of The Union League's home.

A policy of the new organization was to celebrate important national holidays. So it was determined that July 4, 1863, should witness a rousing demonstration.

All the lesser Union Leagues throughout the North were invited to have similar exercises. Clergymen everywhere were asked to preach a sermon from that grand text inscribed on Liberty Bell:

"Proclaim Liberty throughout the land and to all the inhabitants thereof."

Alas! The god of battles arranged otherwise. Before that fateful Fourth of July arrived Lee's mighty hosts in gray had penetrated Pennsylvania, and what was to have been a joyous celebration turned into a period of profound suspense and black gloom.

Gettysburg's guns stilled everything else, but even then the jubilant pro-secessionists enjoyed a sort of super-thrill. They had gone so far as to designate the dwelling in Philadelphia which should house General Lee.

More than that, they placarded the city with the names of many prominent Union League members who they hoped should be personally visited with the wrath of an invading Confederate Army.

Difficult, yes impossible, it is for younger members of The Union League today to comprehend the deep hatreds which the fathers of this institution encountered in their gallant work.

Vicksburg's capture by the relentless Grant, coming with Meade's rolling back of Pickett's assault on Cemetery Ridge at Gettysburg, gave the North new courage.

The spirit of The Union League was contagious, and so a Philadelphia college president was brought to book for writing to a friend:

"The cry in the streets of the fall of Vicksburg is killing me by inches."

Its first big election campaign was waged by The Union League in support of the re-election of Andrew G. Curtin as Governor of Pennsylvania.

While the purposes of the organization were purely national in scope, Governor Curtin's defeat would, it was felt, be hailed everywhere as a blow to the Lincoln administration.

That was especially true since Judge Woodward, of the Supreme Court, was Curtin's Democratic opponent. And it was Judge Woodward who had earlier expressed the hope that if the South did secede, the line of separation should run north of Pennsylvania.

Wayne MacVeagh was Republican State Chairman and he organized a vigorous campaign on behalf of Governor

Curtin. But in that campaign of 1863 James L. Claghorn, Treasurer of The Union League, raised what was probably the largest political campaign fund ever known in any State up to that time.

Mr. Claghorn was a wealthy man and he knew how to reach the pockets of others who had large fortunes. So in a few weeks Treasurer Claghorn had a campaign fund of \$150,000.

Not nearly all of it was spent in that election. Curtin won by a handsome majority, and the balance of the big fund Mr. Claghorn turned over to The Union League, which used the money for the dissemination of additional patriotic literature.

Pennsylvania's great war Governor publicly announced that he owed his re-election in that critical period of the war to the wide-flung efforts of The Union League, which, to use his own words, "had plastered the State with handbills."

Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania had the immediate effect of bringing The Union League into the business of recruiting and equipping troops.

J. Reese Fry was appointed Chairman of a committee which had that work in charge. High bounties were offered for volunteers and within one week a complete regiment was raised.

Then, on July 4, as the welcome news began to filter out from Gettysburg telling of Meade's vast victory, The Union League began to raise a second regiment. That was the beginning of a remarkable success in supplying soldiers to help carry out the great purposes for which the League had been founded.

Nine regiments of infantry and what amounted to a regiment of cavalry were raised and equipped through the tireless efforts of Chairman Fry and his committee.

All those troops, numbering 10,000, were fully equipped at the expense of The Union League, which spent more than \$120,000 to accomplish that highly important work.

One of the most striking of the many works of art seen today in The Union League's great home is a bronze memorial inscribed with the names of those gallant regiments sent to the front by this organization which had solemnly resolved "to take treason by the throat."

Secessionists in Philadelphia and their sympathizers did not, however, look with kindly eye upon that particular enterprise of The Union League.

Opposition newspapers scoffed at the organization which induced others to enlist as soldiers but whose own members remained at home.

That challenge was instantly accepted, and so one day, with banners flying and a band playing, 200 members of The Union League marched out into Chestnut Street in the well-known uniforms of the Boys in Blue.

That display aroused immense enthusiasm and tended to still the jibes of those who not only would not fight for their country but endeavored to discourage all others from doing so.

There are today many little groups, mostly luncheon or dining groups, which in a way are like so many minor clubs within the all-embracing one. And as early as 1863 "The Five-Twenties" comprised perhaps the earliest of those sub-clubs.

As the name suggests, they were particularly interested in the raising of funds with which to prosecute the war.

There was another group which was especially concerned about what then was an issue which was causing the bitterest discussion all over America and even in Europe.

The question was: Shall negroes be armed as soldiers?

Many loyal Northerners were very much opposed to a policy of arming colored men. In the South violent threats were made about retaliations should negroes be found in any Federal army.

All such threats and all the efforts of dissenters in Philadelphia could not deter some of the courageous Union Leaguers.

Thomas Webster was the outspoken champion of the plan to raise negro regiments. Finally it was announced that Secretary of War Stanton had granted permission to raise three regiments of colored troops in eastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Webster was promptly made chairman of a committee of sixty members to put into effect that revolutionary enterprise.

Headquarters were established in Chestnut Street in a house only a block away from The Union League house, and in less than one month a complete regiment of colored troops had been assembled at Camp William Penn in the northern section of the city.

Colonel Louis Wagner, destined for a long and eminent career as a banker and public official in Philadelphia, had command of that first negro regiment which was to make history.

So fierce, however, were the resentments on the part of Democrats that when finally Colonel Wagner was ordered to take his black regiment to the front, he was ordered to embark his troops without parading.

Two more regiments were speedily raised and then it was decided that there should be no more subterfuge or evasion and that Philadelphia should witness its first parade of negro regiments.

Colonel Wagner, stern and relentless, rode at the head of that black column. There had been many threats of riots should such a display occur, but the parade moved without a single disturbance through the streets of the city where Independence was cradled.

While The Union League had not of its own efforts raised all those colored troops, it nevertheless was certain that it had taken the lead in meeting the issue boldly and resolutely and thus forced the way to a Federal administration policy which in the end had far-reaching consequences.

The Union League was the first organization in the United States which demanded the renomination of President Lincoln in 1864.

Formal action was taken on January 11 of that year.

Its intelligent political action stamped The Union League as something far more important than a club or an institution local to Philadelphia. Everywhere it was regarded as truly national in character.

In its nearly seventy years of history The Union League has witnessed many more historic receptions than any other similar club or organization in the world.

The first of these was on Washington's Birthday, 1864. It was made notable by the presentation of a flag by certain Philadelphia ladies to The Union League, when two eloquent speeches were made by Daniel Dougherty and George H. Boker, Secretary of the League.

During the war period The Union League started its custom of awarding gold or silver medals to distinguished men.

The first one was gold and went to President Lincoln. Before peace came The Union League presented silver medals to a number of the leading generals and naval officers, including General Grant and Admiral Farragut.

Silver medals were also given to a few distinguished foreigners who had displayed a never-failing eagerness to see the Union cause triumph. The most notable of these was John Bright, the Quaker statesman of England.

An event of historic interest today was The Union League's reception to President Lincoln on June 17, 1864. It was on that occasion, the immortal Emancipator paid his fine tribute to the services rendered by The Union League during the war.

The presidential campaign that year was one of the most momentous in the 142 years since the first election of Washington. Defeat of Lincoln for re-election would stamp his administration as a failure and prove a disastrous blow to the Union cause.

General George B. McClellan, a native of Philadelphia, was the Democratic nominee and was supposed to be exceptionally popular, and particularly so with the million Union troops then in the field.

The work accomplished by The Union League during that hotly contested presidential election was extremely valuable in many ways but especially so in one.

Pennsylvania had determined to enact a law permitting its soldiers at the front to vote in the field. In the campaign to bring about the enactment of that law The Union League threw all its great influence.

How vital that was may be read in the election returns. Without the heavy vote cast by Pennsylvania soldiers for Lincoln this State might have gone for McClellan.

In its early history The Union League never practised pussyfoot policies.

During the epochal days of reconstruction, when Congress was racked in the throes of the impeachment trial of President Johnson, The Union League presented a solid front to send General Grant to the White House.

Thus, early in 1867, the year before the National Convention met, the League voted unanimously in favor of the nomination of Grant by the Republicans.

It was the first organization in the United States to take that resolute position, and the effect of The Union League's endorsement was felt all over the country.

Grant was entertained by the League shortly after his election as President in November, 1868. He was regarded as the true champion of the Union party.

After some hesitation the League had adopted resolutions strongly condemning President Andrew Johnson and Secretary of State W. H. Seward for their attitude on national questions, especially those relating to reconstruction policies.

It is popularly supposed now that The Union League has ever refrained from participation in all political campaigns other than national elections. Such was far from the fact in those stirring days of the sixties.

The Union League carried on a hot fight over a registration law in Pennsylvania and it employed two of its own foremost lawyers, William M. Meredith and Charles Gibbons, to wage the battle in the courts, where they won.

Nor did the League keep out of the Gubernatorial campaigns of that blistering political era. The Democrats carried Philadelphia at the October election, 1868, and that caused The Union League to plunge into the fight to elect General John W. Geary, the Republican nominee, Governor of the State.

Geary carried Pennsylvania in November, and so did Grant, but the results may conceivably have been the reverse except for the valiant campaign waged by The Union League.

Measured by results witnessed in later years, one of the chief events in the early life of The Union League was the building of its home. It had not been possible to extend the lease on the Kuhn house which it rented, and so The Union League for a short time was obliged in 1864 to move into new quarters at 1210 Chestnut Street.

The move was only temporary, and at a meeting in October of that year, while the nation was rocked by an exciting presidential election, it was decided by The Union League to erect its own permanent home.

Daniel Smith, Jr., was made chairman of a committee of members who pushed the work so swiftly that complete

plans were presented to the League at the annual meeting in December of that same year.

A site was purchased which, in the light of after years, seems little short of an inspiration. Mr. Smith's committee selected that plot of land on the west side of Broad Street between Sansom and Moravian Streets.

Broad Street was rather far west in that day, and it was paved entirely with cobblestones. A double track steam railroad line was still in that thoroughfare in 1865, when The Union League moved into that now historic home which it still occupies.

There was no building along Broad Street of more than four or five stories in height.

Where City Hall now stands was an open public square. The County Courts were still huddled down at Chestnut and Sixth Streets. Nearly all the law offices were as yet east of Tenth Street.

Virtually not a single store or shop had leaped to the westward of Broad Street. How immeasurably wise and fortunate The Union League was is now instantly apparent to all who look upon the stupendous revolution in building construction which has occurred in that vicinity in recent years.

The original plans called for an expenditure of \$120,000 to pay for the site, erect the Union League house and furnish it.

But the winter of 1864 witnessed a terrific advance in the price of almost every commodity, including gold. It was not strange, therefore, that the final cost of the original Union League home was \$176,000.

For that time it was doubtless the largest sum ever spent by any club or similar body upon a home.

Great preparations were made for a splendid celebration when The Union League should move into its new house on May 11, 1865. Alas! The assassination of Lincoln cast such a gloom over the nation that all evidence of gaiety was absent when the League came to its new abode.

The red brick walls and the broad steps are here today as they were sixty-six years ago. Then they were the newest and most striking architectural effect seen anywhere along that section of Broad Street.

Today this historic home of The Union League is the oldest one there and the only structure in that part of Broad Street dating from the death of Lincoln.

Hatreds engendered by its valiant efforts to save the American Republic blazed out anew when The Union League moved into a domicile which was described by former secession sympathizers as wanton extravagance. Those bitter feelings resulted in a shameful exhibition of crime when the new League building was set on fire, resulting in a loss of \$20,000.

So violent were the threats of retaliation upon the League for the great work it had accomplished that the members, even when the war was over, felt obliged to place extra guards in the new home to save it from boisterous rioters.

The thirty years from Grant to McKinley, and the thirty years from McKinley to the present time, saw The Union League active in all the presidential campaigns.

But excepting the unusual demonstrations witnessed during the World War, the most colorful incidents in the

League's history during that long period centered chiefly in the many remarkable receptions given to various eminent men.

It would be tedious to enumerate these in detail, since the recipients included many of the greatest soldiers and statesmen of the past sixty years.

A gold medal was presented to Philadelphia's famous General, George Gordon Meade, and a gala reception in his honor filled the house with a distinguished assemblage. When General Meade died, The Union League formed a notable part of the escort to the tomb.

Sheridan, Sherman and Grant were all entertained by The Union League—Grant more than once—and all were medalists.

A memorable occasion was the reception given to President and Mrs. R. B. Hayes. But during its first thirty years The Union League's most brilliant occasion was its reception to General Grant after his two years of absence from the country when he made a journey around the world.

He was accompanied on that historic trip by John Russell Young, one of the founders of the League. Indeed, the enthusiastic greeting accorded to Grant in Philadelphia when he came here as a guest of the League was an incident of real political import.

He was hailed as the next President of the United States, and it happened the following year that a large majority of the delegates to the National Republican Convention from Pennsylvania, under the leadership of Senator J. Donald Cameron, voted for Grant.

The League's entertainment of Grant had helped very materially to solidify sentiment in favor of a third Presidential term for that great soldier.

During the seventies The Union League also witnessed more sombre occasions.

Horace Binney, Jr., who had been one of the founders and who became its third President, died while holding that office. Mr. Binney, Jr., never attained those great heights reached by his eminent father, who was then still living, although past ninety years of age, yet he was a man of fine qualities and one who contributed freely of his talents in those trying days of the Civil War.

Then, while engaged as President of the State Constitutional Convention in 1874, William Morris Meredith, first President of The Union League, died.

Only a little while before Stephen Colwell, whose name was the first on the list of Union League members, also passed away.

The League added the prestige of its influence in promoting the Centennial in 1876. Now and then it took a direct hand in some election which was not national.

It carried on a vigorous campaign for a judge of the State Supreme Court, and it also came out openly for the election of Russell Thayer as a judge of the Philadelphia courts.

The League sent out broadsides in a campaign relative to naturalization of immigrants. It waged a spirited fight against several nominees of the Republican Party for local Philadelphia offices.

While the nation awaited with feelings of deepest concern the outcome of the Hayes-Tilden presidential contest of

1876, The Union League spoke out boldly and declared it to be the duty of every citizen to uphold the candidate, no matter of which party, who should officially be declared elected.

The League in 1882 did not hesitate to administer a mild rebuke upon President Chester A. Arthur for what appeared a misguided policy of factional favoritism which resulted in Democratic Congressional gains. Nevertheless, when Arthur died, the League house was draped in mourning and a resolution adopted to the effect that he had been the only Vice-President who, "having succeeded to the Presidency, met every friendly expectation."

It was conceded that President Arthur came out of the office a bigger man than when he went in.

The League paid a handsome tribute to General Winfield Scott Hancock, a native of Pennsylvania, for his gallant services at Gettysburg, although he was the Democratic nominee for President but beaten by Garfield.

Of all the members of The Union League during its first decade, no other was so constantly in the light of publicity as George H. Boker. He was its Secretary, and as such was looked upon as typifying the League itself in all its actions.

When President Grant in 1871 appointed Mr. Boker as Minister to Turkey, The Union League felt itself highly honored.

There was a rousing farewell tendered that accomplished literary genius and patriot before he sailed away on his mission of State.

It was on that occasion Senator Simon Cameron proclaimed that The Union League had done most of any civil organizations in America to put down the Rebellion.

One of the high points in the annals of the League was the day it had as guests James G. Blaine and the ever-popular General William Tecumseh Sherman.

As a national policy, the League has constantly upheld the theory of a sound protective tariff as an aid to American industries. On many occasions during the past forty years it came out staunchly in its support of this truly American idea.

Perhaps the League's most important contributions to the public welfare in the four decades following the Civil War were a result of the free coinage of silver craze.

When the silver cohorts were mustered by a popular and forceful orator, W. J. Bryan, the situation developed into a menace to the country's financial honor.

The Union League expended money and effort to uphold a doctrine that every dollar issued by the American government should always be the equal in exchange value of gold.

Then because President McKinley was looked upon as the beau ideal champion of both a protective tariff and sound money, he was hailed with patriotic delight by The Union League.

Now, after thirty years, McKinley is yearly honored in a signal way.

On each recurring birthday of Washington, Lincoln, Grant, McKinley and Roosevelt, a life-size portrait of each, wreathed in flowers, is placed in the main hall at the Broad Street entrance of the League's house.

It is generally conceded, moreover, that the most remarkable presidential reception witnessed anywhere in the

United States was one given to William McKinley after his re-election as President in November, 1900.

Never before or since has a Vice-President-elect and nearly the entire Cabinet accompanied a President of the United States at a dinner or reception which was not held in Washington.

Founders Day was celebrated on November 24, 1900, and that was the occasion which was honored in so splendid a fashion by the President.

McKinley had a few weeks before been triumphantly re-elected. Then on Founders Day he attended a dinner in the League and was accompanied by the following members of his Cabinet: Hay, Gage, Griggs, Smith, Long, Hitchcock and Wilson.

Governor Theodore Roosevelt, who had been elected Vice-President, was also present, as were Senators Lodge and Wolcott, and J. Pierpont Morgan.

It is worth recording that one of the Cabinet officers, Charles Emory Smith, of Philadelphia, then Postmaster General, was a member of The Union League.

President McKinley had come to the League during his administration and selected C. Stuart Patterson, then its President, to be a member of the highly important Monetary Commission.

The Union League in the seventies fought greenbackism, and in the Bryan campaign, during the nineties, it fought free coinage of silver.

When the Federal Reserve Bank System was created during the administration of Woodrow Wilson, Levi L. Rue, a member of The Union League, was the choice of

Pennsylvania's bankers to lead the campaign for a sound banking law. Mr. Rue on that occasion performed a notable service, and he remained one of the Counsellors of the Federal Reserve System until ill health caused his retirement.

At the time Senator M. A. Hanna was the outstanding political chieftain, managing the presidential campaign of William McKinley, he was a guest of The Union League.

Li Hung Chang, China's foremost statesman of a century, was another guest and so was the Count of Paris, Pretender to the throne of France.

An historic Founders Day celebration in the life of The Union League was that in January, 1905.

President Roosevelt had twice before been a guest of The Union League. On this last occasion he made a spirited address in which he said:

"The Union League has a claim such as no other organization can have upon each and every Republican President of the United States. This was the parent club of those organizations which were founded in the dark days of the Civil War to uphold the hands of Abraham Lincoln in the Cabinet and of Ulysses S. Grant in the field."

Then in whimsical fashion President Roosevelt won cheers and applause with this declaration:

"I wanted to come to The Union League of Philadelphia and I wanted to come to Pennsylvania. I have a right to feel mighty grateful, for at the last election Pennsylvania, which has established a record in many different ways, established a new record of a half million plurality for the Republican party and incidentally I benefited by it."

The year 1905 may, as Juvenal said, be marked by the League with a white stone. It was then resolved to enter upon the great new building programme "provided the expenditures be limited to \$500,000."

In May of that same year, The Union League had a notable celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the opening of the present Union League house. Edward T. Stotesbury was then President and introduced the guests and speakers, who included Senator Chauncey M. Depew.

The long dispute as to whether The Union League of Philadelphia or the Union League Club of New York was organized first was then finally set at rest.

Senator Depew said he had been seven times President of the Union League Club of New York, yet he made the following statement:

"Your organization is the parent of the organizations which did so much in arousing and organizing patriotic sentiment to save the Union during the Civil War."

A brief address was also made by Abraham Barker, the veteran banker. He was then the only survivor of the original Union Club who was also a member of The Union League.

The venerable William H. Armstrong also spoke. He had been a member of the League for the full forty years since it occupied its present home, and had been one of the Pennsylvania legislators who had escorted President Lincoln across Pennsylvania on his way to his first inauguration.

A gala occasion was witnessed in The Union League, April 27, 1912. It was a celebration in memory of the

1 | ninetieth birthday of General Grant, who had himself been a guest more than once and also was awarded the gold medal.

President William H. Taft was the guest of honor and made a brilliant address, in which he said:

“As I stand here in this new hall of The Union League that continues the memory of the old hall, I feel as if I were in the temple and the very center of patriotism in this country.”

As a deserved tribute for his exalted services as a member of the Cabinet, as a United States Senator, and as a citizen, The Union League in 1915 tendered a reception to Elihu Root and awarded him the gold medal.

Then at the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the League house in 1915, former President William H. Taft was again the chief guest of honor.

On the same occasion an ovation was accorded Edwin S. Stuart, who had been Mayor of Philadelphia, Governor of Pennsylvania, and President of The Union League.

Ever alive to living issues, The Union League arranged for a rousing mass meeting in 1916, held in the Metropolitan Opera House.

John Gribbel was then President and he presided. The purpose of that meeting was to listen to an address by Charles Evans Hughes, Republican nominee for President of the United States and now its honored Chief Justice.

Another war had now burst upon the world and one which proved to be the most destructive in property and human life since the creation of man.

The Union League had not forgotten the high purpose for which it was organized. New times had brought a new

personnel into the League, but the spirit which had blazed in sixty-three shone brightly a half century afterward.

C. Stuart Patterson, "speaking as the oldest living Ex-President," made a patriotic address at the annual meeting in which he pointed out "one of the most honorable acts in the whole history of the League."

"On the first Liberty Loan in June, 1917, some of your members subscribed \$1,751,000, and on the second Liberty Loan some of your members subscribed \$3,560,000."

That was only the beginning of greater things to follow.

There was subscribed by members through The Union League for the third Liberty Loan \$3,139,400. The fourth Liberty Loan was purchased by League members through the League itself to the amount of \$9,191,200.

The climax came with the fifth loan, for which League members subscribed to the amount of \$11,218,000.

Many members, of course, purchased Liberty bonds through other channels, yet the grand total of subscriptions sent in by The Union League was \$28,878,600.

That was equivalent to one-third of the total cost of the Revolutionary War which won independence for America.

Union League members to the number of 209 were actively engaged in military or naval service during the World War.

In memory of their service to their country, a large bronze tablet inscribed with their names was placed upon the wall in the main corridor of the house and not far from the Civil War memorial for The Union League regiments.

Purchase of millions of their country's bonds and personal military and naval service by its younger members

by no means exhausted the World War efforts of the League. Patriotic literature and Liberty bond primers were printed and broadcast by millions of copies.

More important than these was the creation of The Union League Annex for troops. A property at Broad and Spruce Streets was rented and equipped for that purpose. It was substantially a well-appointed club for the sole use of men in uniform.

The League there provided gratis not only food and the ordinary comforts of a club, but high-class entertainment in the form of theatricals and moving pictures.

It was a big success and cost The Union League many thousands of dollars.

For many years the League has adhered to a custom of inviting distinguished men to be its guests. The list of these is far too long to be repeated here complete.

Addresses delivered on those occasions covered the widest range. Many were of a high educational value.

One of these guests was Rear Admiral Charles D. Sigsbee, gallant Commander of the battleship Maine when it was blown up in Havana Harbor.

Admiral George Dewey, whose meteoric victory at Manila Bay was one of the heroic naval engagements in our country's history, although a Democrat, was made an honorary member of the League.

One of America's most famous Speakers of the House of Representatives was Joseph G. Cannon, who was a guest of the League and made a notable address.

General O. O. Howard, James S. Sherman, when a candidate for Vice-President of the United States, Senator

Philander C. Knox, Senator A. J. Beveridge, Speaker Nicholas Longworth, Andrew W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury in three administrations, Senator David A. Reed, Frank O. Lowden, and Senator George Wharton Pepper were only a few of the eminent guests of the League in comparatively recent years.

True to its tradition of inviting every Republican President of the United States to be its guest, the League tendered a reception to President Calvin Coolidge in November, 1927.

That proved to be one of the most memorable of Founders Days in recent years.

Fully two thousand members on that occasion personally paid their respects to the President, to whom was awarded the gold medal.

When General William G. Price, Jr., was President of the League in 1928, General John J. Pershing, who commanded the American Army of 2,000,000 men in France during the World War, was a guest and made an address.

General Pershing had been a guest of the League soon after the close of the war, when the ovation given to him was of the most enthusiastic character.

Other war heroes had also come to the League, notably Marshal Foch and Earl French, who had commanded the first British Army in France.

On May 13, 1930, The Union League was shocked by the death of its President, Melville G. Baker.

President Taft, who had been elected a member of the League in 1909, had died the previous month, and Dinner Beeber, a former President, in the following June.

Mr. Baker was the second President of the League to die while in office, the other having been Horace Binney, Jr., in 1871.

Upon the death of Mr. Baker, George Stuart Patterson was elected President to succeed him, and he was re-elected at the annual meeting in December.

The outstanding occasion in The Union League during 1931 was the dinner and reception given for President Herbert Hoover.

The League had requested the President to sit for a portrait which it desired to present to him. President Hoover graciously consented, and the portrait was presented to him by President Patterson when he and Mrs. Hoover were the League's distinguished guests.

The artist made a copy of the Hoover portrait, which is now one of the art treasures of the League.

More than forty years ago The Union League began to purchase smaller properties to the westward of its house. One after another was bought until finally the entire city block bounded by Broad, Fifteenth, Sansom, and Moravian Streets had been acquired.

There were many rather warm debates on the propriety of razing the original building on Broad Street and erecting there a structure to conform in architecture with the splendid new house fronting on Fifteenth Street. Whatever advantages were suggested by those in favor of such a plan, they were more than offset by the opposition, which strongly urged retention of the old building as an historic relic.

That opinion prevailed, so that while about two-thirds of the present League house is completely modern, with

heavy granite walls and acres of marble inside, the original structure completed in 1865 remains.

A stranger might regard this combination as incongruous, yet in reality it is not so.

The newer house affords every possible facility demanded by a modern club. Billiard rooms with twenty tables, extensive bath, barber shop and bowling alley facilities, magnificent dining rooms, a great assembly room which seats one thousand persons, large card rooms and the largest library found in any club in the city—these are a part of The Union League equipment.

In addition to these there are eighty-six sleeping rooms, nearly all with adjoining bath, and upon the ground floor, a distinctly modernized ladies' cafe.

The Finance Committee reported in 1914 that total expenditures for erection of the Fifteenth Street edifice, including the alteration of the old oyster cafe into the ladies' restaurant, had been \$1,033,000.

Many improvements have been made since then, notably the reconstruction of the ladies' dining room. It is now not uncommon for one thousand persons to have luncheon at The Union League on one day. Such large patronage necessitated extensive improvements upon kitchen and serving facilities.

Nor is it unusual to serve dinner to more than five hundred persons in the Lincoln auditorium. These facts are cited to show the completeness of The Union League's cuisine facilities and equipment.

Covering an entire city block in the very heart of the tenth largest city in the world, The Union League's house

is filled with paintings, portraits and statuary. It is doubtful if these can be matched by similar works of art in any other organization of this kind here or abroad.

In the beginning The Union League started a library. It has grown steadily until now it embraces about 19,000 volumes. This library is particularly rich in literature pertaining to the Civil War. The library rooms are unusually expansive and exquisitely fitted for the purposes for which they are intended.

The George S. Pepper endowment fund, together with regular appropriations made by the League, enables the constant enlargement and improvement of this very fine collection of books.

All the leading popular magazines of the world are on the tables of The Union League, and also a great variety of important trade publications and daily newspapers of leading American cities.

Indeed, the League library is a valuable asset. A particularly beautiful room connected with the library is known as the Lincoln Memorial, in which there is a heroic statue of the martyr President and a collection of historic relics.

Included in these are the priceless battle-flags presented by the George G. Meade Post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Among the League's portraits, three are outstanding. One is of Washington by Sully, another of Henry Clay by Neagle, and the third of General Meade by Knight.

The Washington and Clay are doubtless the most valuable single examples of all the art works belonging to the League.

A statement of its assets made in the annual report for the year 1930 placed these at the impressive total of \$2,390,000. The building was carried at \$1,728,986, the furnishings, \$321,000, and the library, \$30,000.

But the city for taxation purposes has assessed The Union League property at \$3,800,000.

Members may feel especially proud of these figures when it is added that the final \$40,000 of indebtedness was cancelled during the year 1931.

Some years ago the by-laws were changed so that the name of any veteran of the Civil War proposed for membership might, upon request, be placed at the head of the waiting list.

Then it was later voted that all members who had seen active military or naval service in that conflict to preserve the American Republic should be made honorary life members and exonerated from payment of the annual tax.

Only about a dozen of the present members of The Union League saw military service in the Civil War.

Henry Clay Butcher is now the senior member, having been elected in January, 1865. He is the only survivor of those who joined the League while Lincoln still lived and before the surrender at Appomattox.

The membership roll now presents some remarkable facts. There were at the close of 1931 just short of 3000 members. But at the present time there are 4420 names in the register of applications for membership.

The new members elected this year had been proposed as long ago as 1921, so that measured in time the waiting list is ten years long. This is undoubtedly a world record.

At the close of the first year in 1863 there were 968 members. The number gradually and speedily increased to 1858 in 1869. Then, due to the close of war activities and to a serious national business collapse, the membership fell during the following decade to 851 in 1879.

At the outset the initiation fee was \$25 and the yearly tax the same amount.

These have been increased from time to time until now the initiation fee is \$300 and the annual tax \$125. A life membership costs \$1,000, and the number of these is limited to 150.

About twenty gold medals have been awarded by The Union League, the first to President Lincoln and the last to President Coolidge.

A question frequently discussed both inside and outside The Union League pertains to qualifications for membership.

That question appeared especially pertinent during the spirited presidential campaign of 1928. It then happened that the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee who conducted the battle for votes in behalf of the Democratic nominee was a member of The Union League.

He had formerly been a Republican, but largely upon the issue of prohibition and for other reasons he had changed his political allegiance. It seemed an anomaly when a member of what is generally regarded as the most influential Republican organization in the United States should be working to elect a Democratic President.

That very question of membership qualification came before an annual meeting of the League some thirty-five

years ago. It was then proposed that allegiance to the Republican party should be made a cardinal requisite, and when any member ceased to be a Republican, he should forfeit membership in The Union League.

The question was warmly debated. Those opposed to any such restriction pointed to the charter of The Union League, which, of course, says nothing about individual political beliefs. It was naturally recalled also that a number of pro-war Democrats had been among the original members.

The result of that discussion was the adoption of a resolution to the effect that The Union League is now a Republican organization and "should not admit inharmonious elements."

The Constitution of the United States has through subsequent amendments been radically changed, so it may be said that long adherence to a political policy has in effect added something to the charter of The Union League.

It is now and long has been an inflexible rule that a man who voted for a Democratic nominee for President of the United States cannot be elected a member of The Union League.

It is a significant fact that every Governor of Pennsylvania, with a few exceptions, since it was founded was a member of The Union League.

Beginning with Andrew G. Curtin, who was the renowned War Governor, the list is most impressive and includes Geary, Hartranft, Hoyt, Beaver, Hastings, Pennypacker, Stuart, Stone, Brumbaugh, Sproul and Fisher.

Two of the Governors were also Presidents of the League—Edwin S. Stuart and William Cameron Sproul.

It would require pages to enumerate other eminent men who were proud to be enrolled among its members.

Senator Simon Cameron, Senator J. Donald Cameron, Adolph Borie, Wayne MacVeagh, Benjamin Harris Brewster, John Wanamaker, Charles Emory Smith and Andrew W. Mellon were all Union League members who served in presidential cabinets.

The elder Cameron, William Potter, Wayne MacVeagh, Charlemagne Tower, Charles Emory Smith and Cyrus E. Woods were foreign Ambassadors or Ministers.

Pennsylvania has come to The Union League for United States Senators other than the Camerons. Boise Penrose, David A. Reed, Joseph R. Grundy and Philander C. Knox were in that list, and after he retired as Senator from Vermont George F. Edmunds joined the League.

It has often been said, and with complete accuracy, that The Union League of Philadelphia is the only social organization in America to be President of which is comparable in distinction to holding a high public office.

That could not be even approximately true had the League ever deviated from its earliest tradition in selecting a man of unusual capabilities to be its chief executive.

Only twenty-five men have held that office during the sixty-nine years since the League was founded.

George H. Boker served for six years and his tenure was the longest. Morton McMichael and Edward T. Stotesbury each served five years.

The only father-and-son Presidents were C. Stuart Patterson, who served in 1897 and 1898, and George Stuart Patterson, who was first chosen in 1930.

In earlier days members resented reference to their institution as a club. They said emphatically that it was not a club but a league, which implied something far different.

Of all the Union Leagues organized through the efforts of this parent one, only two others survive, one in New York, the other in Chicago.

It now seems highly improbable that any future crisis will come in America which can occasion the organization of other associations similar to this. That must as surely forever make The Union League of Philadelphia something much more important than a mere social club—something also of far greater significance than could possibly attach to a political club.

While The Union League of Philadelphia possesses all the outward features and appointments of the finest social clubs, it still has something else away beyond these.

There is here a background of purpose, of spirit, of courage, of patriotism, of nationalism. That background stretches out nearly seventy years.

Countless times have people described it as an institution of Philadelphia.

It is certainly that and much besides.

For the full sixty-nine years of its existence The Union League has directly or indirectly exerted a more potential political influence in Pennsylvania than any other one agency or chartered organization in this State during that long period of time.

So the League is not only a Philadelphia institution but a Pennsylvania institution, and it is emphatically a national institution.

This has been recognized and fully emphasized by Republican presidents from Lincoln to Hoover. It has been proved by each succeeding national crisis since the Rebellion.

It shone in the seventies when efforts to repudiate national debts were fought by The Union League.

It blazed again when destruction of the American policy of a protective tariff seriously threatened.

Again that spirit stalked forth when financial fanaticism in the guise of free silver was a national menace.

Nor was it ever more glorious than in the terrific clash of arms during the World War, when again this nation's honor was at stake.

So it must be said that if The Union League hedges about with cautious jealousy the privilege of membership, it can also be said that those admitted to its rolls have conferred upon them a priceless heritage.

Those who enjoy that distinction are to a like degree bound by deepest obligations to uphold all the splendid traditions of this institution. Indeed, the motto of The Union League sets an exalted standard of citizenship for every American:

“LOVE OF COUNTRY LEADS!”

